GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3617
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
MINIMUM WAGES TO CHILD LABOUR
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make provision of fixation of different rates of wages in respect of child labour so as to discourage employment of children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fix minimum wages for child labour;

(d) whether there is any proposal to make provision for penalty for violation of wage payment and working hour norms by the employers;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a) to (c): The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for fixation of different rates of minimum wages for adults, adolescents, children and apprentices. Since this tends to encourage engagement of child labour, the Government has been exploring deletion of the relevant section of the Act. In the proposed integrated draft Law on Wages based on the recommendation of the Second National Commission on Labour, there is no mention of different rates of minimum wages for children. However, given the steps and procedures involved, it is not possible to specify any time frame for finalisation of the proposals.

(d) to (f): In pursuance of the statutory provisions of the Act, the enforcement is secured through the enforcement machinery both in the Central and the State spheres. The officers of these machineries appointed as Inspectors under the Act, conduct regular inspections and advise the employers to implement provisions of the Act whenever they come across any violation like non-payment or less payment of minimum wages, non-adherence to the number of hours constituting a normal working day etc. There are legal and penal provisions like fine and imprisonment against the defaulting employers.